



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Y5
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,083	04/17/2001	Akira Shinada	7217/64316	7741

7590 10/08/2003

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

EXAMINER
NGUYEN, NAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2635	5

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/836,083	SHINADA, AKIRA
Examiner	Art Unit	
Nam V Nguyen	2635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/12/02 .

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The application of Shinada for an “apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment for vehicles” filed April 17, 2001 has been examined.

This application claims foreign priority based on the application P2000-118863 filed April 20, 2000 in Japan. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C 119(a) – (d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

A preliminary amendment to the claims 1-10 have been entered and made of record.

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure form (PTO-1449) listing the references was not enclosed in the application.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

The current abstract using in the claim is implied and should be avoided. Abstract should be a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta et al. (US# 6,002,341).

Referring to claim 1, Ohta et al. disclose a door lock control apparatus for a vehicle as recited in claim 1. See Figures 1, 3-4 and respective portions of the apparatus and method.

Ohta et al. disclose an apparatus for controlling an electronic equipment (18 and 19) for vehicles (column 1 lines 49 to 63; see Figure 1) comprising:

Detection means (30, 22 or 12) (i.e. an input interface) for detecting a commencement of a condition of use (i.e. lock/unlock or operate a door handle) of a vehicle (1) (i.e. vehicle body) employing the electronic equipment (18 and 19) (i.e. a door control relay and actuator) for vehicles (column 2 lines 54 to column 3 lines 12; see Figure 1); and

Control means (25) (i.e. a door lock control unit) for controlling operations of the electronic equipment (18 and 19) for vehicles (1) (column 3 lines 12 to 22), wherein said control means (25) causes the electronic equipment (18 and 19) to be placed in a standby condition (i.e. a waiting mode) from which the electronic equipment can be immediately shifted into a normally operating condition (i.e. a wake up mode) when the commencement of the condition of use (i.e. lock or unlock) of the vehicle is detected by the detection means(30) (column 4 lines 20 to column 4 line 23; see Figures 3 and 4).

Referring to claim 2, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detection means (30) is provided in a control unit (20) (i.e. a door lock control unit) which is shifted into the normally operating condition (i.e. a wake up mode) from the standby condition (i.e. a waiting mode) for controlling operations (i.e. lock or unlock) of a motor-operated apparatus employed in the vehicle when the condition of use (i.e. lock/unlock or operate a door handle) of the vehicle (1) is commenced, and is operative to detect the commencement of the condition of use of the vehicle by detecting a shift of the control unit (20) into the normally operating condition from the standby condition (column 3 lines 6 to 22; see Figures 1 and 3-4).

Referring to claim 4, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit (25) is shifted into the normally operating condition from the standby condition when the reception of a lock control signal for unlocking door lock means (106) provided in the vehicle is detected by lock control signal receiving means (22) provided in the vehicle (column 4 lines 40 to 65; see Figure 3).

Referring to claim 6, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control unit is shifted into the normally operating condition from the standby condition when a manual handling to a door knob (12) (i.e. a door handle switch) of the vehicle for unlocking door lock means provided in the vehicle is detected by door knob handling detecting means provided in the vehicle (column 2 lines 54 to 65; see Figures 1 and 2).

Referring to claim 8, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detecting means (22) is operative to detect the commencement of the condition of use of the vehicle with the reception of a lock control signal for unlocking door lock means (106) provided in the vehicle is detected by lock control signal receiving means (22) provided in the vehicle (column 4 lines 40 to 65; see Figure 3).

Referring to claim 9, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said detecting means (12 and 7) is operative to detect the commencement of the condition of use (i.e. lock or unlock) of the vehicle with a manual handling to a door knob (12) (i.e. a door handle switch) of the vehicle for unlocking door lock means provided in the vehicle is detected by door

knob handling detecting means provided in the vehicle (column 2 lines 33 to 65; see Figures 1 and 2).

Referring to claim 10, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means (25) is operative to keep the electronic equipment in the standby condition (201) (i.e. standing by) when pose control means (25) provided in the electronic equipment is performing its functions (i.e. determining whether or not the unlock/lock is operated) (column 4 lines 66 to column 5 line 19; see Figure 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta et al. (US# 6,002,341) as applied to claim 2 above, and in view of Hsu (US# 6,339,340).

Referring to claim 3, Ohta et al. disclose the apparatus according to claim 2, however, Ohta et al. did not explicitly disclose wherein said detection means is operative to detect the shift of the control unit into the normally operating condition from the standby condition by detecting starting voltage variations occurring in the control unit.

In the same field of endeavor of detecting the voltage, Hsu teaches that detection means (423) (i.e. voltage monitoring circuit) is operative to detect the shift of the control unit (421) into the normally operating condition from the standby condition by detecting starting voltage variations occurring in the control unit (421) (column 3 lines 1 to 17; column 5 lines 35 to 49; see Figures 4 and 11) in order to determine the capacity of the standby power is activated or not.

One of ordinary skilled in the art recognizes the need to add a voltage monitoring circuit to detect the variation of the capacity of the standby power of Hsu in the door lock control unit of Ohta et al. because Ohta et al. suggest it is desired to provide that a door lock control unit detects the operating condition of a battery and a contact electrode to shift into the wake up mode from a standing by mode to drive the door locking mechanism (column 2 line 54 to column 3 line 22; see Figure 1) and Hsu teaches that the a voltage monitoring circuit to detect the variation of standby power to output a signal to the control unit (column 5 lines 35 to 49; see Figures 4 and 11) in order to judge the capacity of the standby power supplied by the power supply. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add a voltage monitoring circuit to detect the variation of the capacity of the standby power of Hsu in the door lock control unit of Ohta et al. with the motivation for doing so would have been to provide a detection circuitry to monitor the power supply of the vehicle door lock control apparatus in order to have a safe and efficient power supply to the control unit.

Referring to claims 5 and 7, Ohta et al. in view of Hsu disclose the apparatus according to claim 2, the claims 5 and 7 same as in the claims 4 and 6 already addressed above therefore claims 5 and 7 are also rejected for the same reasons given with respect to claims 4 and 6.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Togashi (US# 6,326,885) discloses a keyless security system.

Vogele (US# 6,181,254) discloses a remote keyless entry system having passive transmission mode.

Nakaya et al. (US# 5,767,588) disclose a wireless vehicle control system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nam V Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Nam Nguyen
September 25, 2003



MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

